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CONNECTION

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It's fulfilling to transform the university, the marketplace, and the world when we do it together!

Join the National Chi Alpha Alumni Association at chialphaalumni.com or text **XAALUMNI** to **95577**.



Interested in starting up your alumni association group? Email info@chialphaalumni.com for more details.



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Phone 417.567.4710 | **Email** info@chialpha.com | **Web** chialpha.com



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EDITOR'S LETTER

HOW CHI ALPHA IS GROWING

Chi Alpha is growing! The growth we have experienced isn't just random, but rather strategic, deliberate, and Holy Spirit directed. For the 2013-2014 academic year, we had 668 affiliated Chi Alpha staff, and today we have 1,320. This substantive doubling of our staff is the result of a deliberate challenge to our students to consider campus ministry with Chi Alpha as a life vocation and bring the possibility before the Lord.

The growth in our missionary staff is also due to excellent training. Our ten-month Campus Missionary-in-Training (CMIT) internship program, which is required to be a lead missionary in Chi Alpha, efficaciously prepares our leaders for campus ministry. In the past five years, we have grown 122% in the number of campuses participating in our CMIT program.

All CMITs attend our annual Reach the University Institute (RUI), which is held in Springfield, Missouri and is the right of passage and entry level training for all Chi Alpha affiliates. With the growth of the CMIT program, the number of RUI attendees has also experienced significant growth. The RUI class of 2013 numbered 106 people. This year, a record 260 people attended RUI. These future missionaries are adroitly instructed by knowledgeable Chi Alpha veterans on the Chi Alpha philosophy of campus ministry and our Pentecostal distinctive. They are also introduced to the National Chi Alpha family, its departments, and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

We are implementing everything we do with the highest levels of excellence afforded to us. We are committed to grow the part of God's Kingdom we steward: the outreach to the secular university. Thank you for your support in helping us reach this mission field.



E. SCOTT MARTIN is the senior national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. He previously served as the Student Mission Director for 18 years. He has served with Chi Alpha since May 1986, where he pioneered Chi Alpha on The University of Arizona. He and his family along with two great teams of "give a year" Chi Alpha volunteers also pioneered Chi Alpha in Central Eurasia.

BUILDING MISSIONARIES THAT LAST

BY ALEX RODRIGUEZ



A long time ago, I was invited to participate in something crazy with some fellow missionaries: ride five century rides (100 miles on a bicycle) for five days in a row. The only thing worse than riding 100 miles is riding 500 miles!

Naturally, I declined the invitation. The person inviting me then insisted I ride at least one day. I could experience the ride, become familiar with the course, and the following year I could ride five century rides in a row. I obliged thinking there would be no next year.

Through the encouragement and training from others alongside me, riding 100

miles was not as impossible as I thought. This confidence in a short ride inspired me to go next year for the longer ride. I suppose this is how confidence works. When we experience something briefly, we develop more confidence to experience it completely.

Likewise, being a career missionary may seem like an impossible task. Can I really be relevant to college students when I am no longer one? Can I successfully disciple the unchanging gospel into a changing culture? Can I really retire on paychecks built off monthly investors? The Campus Missionary-in-Training (CMIT) program enables people to experience Chi Alpha

missions briefly as they develop confidence to experience it completely.

In ten short yet full months, intern missionaries raise budgets, learn theology, develop ministry skills, focus on critical pastoral concerns, work on teams, grow in responsibility, and practice making disciples of college students.

After the completing the internship, 81% of interns continue a career in ministry (92% of which continue in a Chi Alpha career). This high retention rate proves the CMIT internship helps build missionaries that last for years to come.



STUDENT TESTIMONY: TAYLOR CRUZ

In 2015, I graduated university and worked with the New Mexico State University Chi Alpha group for two years before enrolling in the Campus Missionary-in-Training (CMIT) internship. As a result, I have the unique perspective of doing campus missions with and without having completed a CMIT internship. I grew more in one year of the CMIT internship than the previous two years combined. That is not to say I neglected reading or seeking Jesus' face, but the internship was structured in such a way to stretch my work capacity, deepen Chi Alpha culture, increase ministry competency, strengthen social chemistry, and refine personal character—all of which are attributes necessary for a fruitful career in any line of work.

Prior to the internship, I learned pieces of these skills and information, but the CMIT internship addressed them specifically and therefore augmented them successfully. The preaching track improved my communication abilities in conversation, small group, and large group preaching; the theology and Bible track increased my critical thinking regarding crucial doctrinal questions and ideas; and the critical pastoral skills have helped me correctly prioritize my personal, family, and ministry health.

What would have taken me three years to research and learn on my own was imparted to me in ten months of the CMIT internship. There is no other schooling I've researched or undergone that is so well rounded with topics like theology, biblical studies, communication, discipleship, leadership, evangelism, missiology, and apologetics like the CMIT. Whether my future is in campus missions, world missions, church ministry, or marketplace ministry, the CMIT has been crucial in shaping me personally and professionally as well as helping me be both mystically and methodically.

In order to walk with Jesus our whole lives successfully, we need to establish a real devotional life, fight for real community with other followers of Jesus, and always take real responsibility for what the Bible says—the CMIT internship trained me in these areas. To be an effective missionary or marketplace worker, we need to be humble enough to know we can always learn, hungry enough to want to, and socially smart enough to not hurt people and teammates in the process—the CMIT internship trained me in these as well. The Chi Alpha CMIT Program is an invaluable experience and training ground for all areas of ministry and an asset for almost all professions.

MARKETPLACE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

STEPHANIE HUFF

Steph Huff graduated from New Jersey's Montclair State University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and a minor in English. After graduation, she served for a year in Chi Alpha's Campus Missionary-in-Training (CMIT) program at Chico State University in California. However, it was the classroom that became Steph's life calling. She went back home to the Garden State to pursue a career teaching Pre-K, which she has now done for nearly twenty years. Steph has been happily married since 2001 to her husband Todd, and they have two children, Elizabeth (14), and Daniel (11). She shares how her time in Chi Alpha shaped the direction of her career, ministry, and family life:

Describe the impact that Chi Alpha had on you as a student.

I remember my years in Chi Alpha with such fondness. The friendships I made then still remain today. Even though life has us on different paths, when we see each other, we pick up where we left off, as if not hardly a day had gone by. Whenever I read Acts 2 (particularly verses 42-47) about how the Early Church functioned, I always think, "that is how I felt in Chi Alpha." Our group was a wonderfully diverse group of people from varying cultures and backgrounds, which taught me to appreciate the uniqueness of

people more, but at the same time we all shared the common and powerful bond of our faith in Jesus. Chi Alpha taught me what it means to be a believer in Christ and how to walk it out in daily life. I am eternally grateful for its impact on me.

How did your time in Chi Alpha equip you to be an influence for Christ in your teaching position?

Chi Alpha taught me one of the most important things you can do in life to honor God is to love and serve other people. This is how I try to spend each day at my school. If my students know I love and care for them, then they feel safe and secure in our learning environment. I think it can be hard to gauge our impact on others on this side of eternity. We just have to be faithful to our callings. Teaching is definitely my place in the world.

What advice do you have for alumni who are entering the field of early education?

I would say how you teach them is as important as what you teach them. Help them gain a love and thirst for learning at the beginning of their education and it will always follow them. Remember they are little (even though we expect a lot from them) and treat them with love and kindness. And try not to get bogged down in all the extraneous paperwork that goes along with teaching.



Finally, what wisdom would you pass along to anyone who senses God's calling to become a CMIT?

Go for it! I went back and forth in my decision making to do it because of family and financial concerns, but I knew from God it was what I was supposed to do, so I did it. In hindsight, it was one of the best decisions I ever made. Even though I am not working with Chi Alpha now, the CMIT program taught me so much about ministry (which has helped me to understand my pastor husband and how to support him and work alongside him in ministry). What I learned and experienced (and friendships that were made) as an intern at Chico State helped to shape who I am today and I am eternally grateful for that.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A CMIT'S LIFE?

BY JENNIFER SCHIEFER

At 5:30 early in the morning, the snooze button beckons, but Michael will have to resist. Workout starts in 30 minutes and he can't be late. Michael is a Chi Alpha intern. After morning prayer, he's headed to campus at 10:00 where the veteran missionaries have been teaching him to fish for men. Two weeks into the semester, Michael found a sophomore who has become his shadow, and Michael is now teaching him to find and make disciples as well. At 3:00, it's time for a one-on-one with his staff mentor. Next is Bible class, then theology homework and preparing for preaching lab before his small group arrives. He falls into bed at 11:30 pm exhausted but excited to do it again tomorrow.

For Michael and other CMITs, the internship experience falls somewhere between an apprenticeship and an army boot camp. An apprentice submits herself to a master craftsman expecting

to learn skills. The master strives to pass on a deep heritage and value system while teaching those practical competencies. A new recruit hopes to simply survive boot camp. The drill sergeant knows the training is strategically designed to unearth the recruit's weaknesses. Once the soldier's foundation is exposed, the officer can intentionally build character, grit, and stamina into that recruit who will endure the testing of combat.

And so it is for interns. While they are busy making disciples on campus, a veteran missionary is working to refine their character, skills, and resolve. The fruit of ten months of shared labor, is university students turned into disciples, and a young missionary who is equipped and solidified in calling. The fruit of ten year's labor is dozens of campuses with thriving Chi Alpha groups where none previously existed.

01. CONNECT

Follow both your local and the national Chi Alpha ministries on social media: @chialphausa

02. PRAY

Pray for our CMITs to be challenged and encouraged to become the leaders that God wants them to be.

03. GIVE

To connect with a missionary near you go to: ChiAlpha.com/Locator
Support National Chi Alpha's 20/20 campaign at: ChiAlpha.com/Give.

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